

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 NIC-01 IO-10 /097 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/PAF:KLMARSHALL:JZ

APPROVED BY ARA/PAF:RVFIMBRES

ARA/CCA:GLEYSTEN (INFO)

ARA/NC:DEVINE (INFO)

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P 302226Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 283421

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR, CU, VE

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE: VENEZUELA RESUMES RELATIONS WITH
CUBA

FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED AT DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 30:

Q: HAVE YOU GOT ANY COMMENT ON THE VENEZUELAN DECISION TO
RECOGNIZE CUBA?

A: I THINK I SHOULD SAY THAT VENEZUELA HAS LONG MADE KNOWN
ITS BELIEF THAT THE OAS DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS
SHOULD BE LIFTED. THUS, VENEZUELA'S MOVE TO RE-ESTABLISH
RELATIONS WITH CUBA IS CONSISTENT WITH ITS PAST VIEWS AND
COMES AS NO SURPRISE.

FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE IS BEING USED ON BACKGROUND
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BASIS IN RESPONSE TO SUBSEQUENT PRESS QUERIES:

Q: DID THE USG KNOW IN ADVANCE OF THIS INTENDED ACTION?

A: FOLLOWING THE QUITO CONFERENCE AND THE FAILURE OF THE COLOMBIA/COSTA RICA/VENEZUELA RESOLUTION TO ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY, VENEZUELA HAS MADE KNOWN ITS BELIEF THAT IT HAD DISCHARGED ITS OBLIGATION TO THE CONCEPT OF COLLECTIVE ACTION AND NOW FELT FREE TO TAKE SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION AS MIGHT BE DETERMINED TO BE IN THE NATION'S OWN INTEREST.

Q: HOW WAS THE USG INFORMED, AND WAS THE USG ACTUALLY CONSULTED?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE DETAILS, BUT WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.

Q: DID THE USG TRY TO DISSUADE VENEZUELA FROM THIS ACTION?

A: WE HAVE ALWAYS MADE KNOWN OUR BELIEF THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE OAS SANCTIONS SHOULD RESULT FROM COLLECTIVE ACTION.

Q: WHY DID VENEZUELA TAKE THE ACTION UNILATERALLY AND AT THIS TIME?

A: I WOULD SUGGEST YOU ADDRESS THAT QUESTION TO THE VENEZUELAN AUTHORITIES. SISCO

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30 JUN 2005

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